

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /090 W

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R 221414Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8321

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PQ, PFOR

SUBJ: PANAMANIAN PROFESSIONALS DEMAND INCREASED

PARTICIPATION IN CANAL ADMINISTRATION

SUMMARY.THE PANAMANIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS (SPIA) ISSUED A STATEMENT FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, DEMANDING ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSES IN CANAL ZONE. SPIA STATEMENT DEMANDS OPPORTUNITY FOR PANAMANIAN PROFESSIONALS TO OCCUPY THE HIGHEST OFFICES IN THE CANAL ZONE ADMINISTRATION. THE SOCIETY ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF FAVORING ITS OWN CITIZENS BY CLASSIFYING PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AT HIGHER LEVLES THAN NECESSARY AND, WHEN THAT PLOY DID NOT SUFFICE, BY USING THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL SECURITY TO DENY JOBS TO QUALIFIED PANAMANIAN. END SUMMARY.

1. EL PANAMA AMERICA, IN BANNER HEADLINES AUGUST 17 REPORTED STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SPIA DEMANDING GREATER PANAMANIAN PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CANAL. THE SAME STORY WAS REPEATED IN A LOW KEY SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, BY LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA AND TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 BY THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STAR & HERALD.

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2.THE STATEMENT DECLARED THAT"THE EXERCISE OF THE PROFESSIONS

OF ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IN...(THAT PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY WHICH HAS BEEN DENOMINATED "THE CANAL ZONE") SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO LEGAL CONTROLS OTHER THAN THOSE WHICH EMANATE FROM THE LAWS WHICH APPLY IN THESE FIELDS IN PANAMA. WE HAVE SYSTEM-ATICALLY OPPOSED THE LICENSE WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR PRACTICING OUR PROFESSIONS IN THE CANAL ZONE."

3. THE SOCIETY DECLARED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CANAL BY PANAMA, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS A NATIONAL GOAL, AND ASSERTED "PERHAPS FOR SOME THIS (GOAL) SOUNDS UTOPIAN, BUT FOR PANAMANIAN ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, AS FOR OTHER TECHNICIANS IN RELATED FIELDS, IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT THIS IDEAL CAN BE CONVERTED IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME INTO A HAPPY REALITY."

4. WHILE ADMITTING THE NECESSITY FOR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, THE SOCIETY PROCLAIMED MORE WAS NEEDED. IT PROPOSED "A CRUSADE IN ORDER THAT OUR COLLEAGUES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF FILLING WITHIN THE CANAL ADMINISTRATION ...THE HIGHEST POSITIONS WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE, ELIMINATING THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITY WHICH HAS UNTIL NOW FAVORED THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES," THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF DEMANDING UNREASONABLY HIGH TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND, WHEN THE FIRST PLOY WAS INSUFFICIENT, BY RESORTING TO THE CONCEPT OF (NATIONAL) SECURITY.

5. THE DECLARATION CLOSED WITH "WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS EXHORTATION WILL FIND ATTENTIVE LISTENERS WITHIN THE HIGH REALMS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, SINCE OUR POSITION IS A UNIFYING ONE, MAKING MORE MONOLITIC THE PANAMANIAN POINT OF VIEW, SO BRILLIANTLY PUT FORTH, UP UNTIL NOW, BY OUR FOREIGN OFFICE."

6. THIS WAS SECOND TIME THIS MONTH SPIA HAS PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON CANAL ISSUE. ON AUGUST 9 MATUTINO PUBLISHED LETTER FROM SPIA PRESIDENT TO FONMIN TACK COMPLIMENTING HIM FOR "WAITING STRATEGY" AND SAYING THAT NOW NEW CANAL TREATY SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED ON BASIS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS, IGNORING NATIONAL DIGNITY.

7. COMMENT. THE GENERAL THRUST OF SPIA'S DECLARATION IS NOT NEW. IT IS CONSONANT WITH THE CONTINUING GOP ASPIRATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPLEMENT ITS LAWS WITHIN CANAL ZONE.  
SAYRE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, PQ  
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**Type:** TE  
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